



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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June 06, 2012

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO CHANGE IN SCOPE OF NORTH EAST TREES' COMPETITIVE TRAILS GRANT (FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended action will allow North East Trees to change the scope of its Excess Funds Competitive Grant funded project, the South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project, to the Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project involves new construction of small structures, minor alterations to land and for the reasons cited herein.
2. Approve North East Trees' request to change the project scope from its Excess Funds Competitive Grant funded South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project to a similar project at a nearby location, the Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will allow North East Trees, a nonprofit organization, to change the project scope from its awarded South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project to a similar project, the Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project.

On January 19, 2010, your Board approved the award of \$1,962,528 in Fifth Supervisorial District Competitive and Cities Excess Funds to 12 grantees. Among them, North East Trees was the

recipient of \$150,000 in Competitive Excess Funds for the South Pasadena Nature Park Trail Extension Project. The project consisted of the expansion of the existing park, part of the Arroyo Seco Trail System, including a new path, seat wall, interpretive sign, native planting and irrigation. During the development phase of the project, community volunteers raised concerns that construction in the area of the proposed expansion would put existing trees at risk. The City of South Pasadena, therefore, requested that North East Trees move the project to a location along the Arroyo Seco Trail System where the project improvements would not impact sensitive stands of existing trees.

North East Trees and the City of South Pasadena request that the \$150,000 grant be changed to fully fund the Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project. The new proposed project consists of the design and construction of a trail to connect the Rim of the Valley Trail in the City of South Pasadena including the installation of a seating area with a river rock seating wall and interpretive sign; installation of native plants; and the installation of bird houses.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3) by providing trail connectivity and recreational access in South Pasadena in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed project will be fully funded with the requested \$150,000 in Fifth District Competitive Excess Funds previously awarded.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$150,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

If your Board denies the recommended actions, the grantee may complete the project with the originally-awarded scope, request your Board's approval for a different new project or relinquish claim to these grant funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Arroyo Seco Trailhead and Pocket Park Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15303 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the project involves new construction of small structures and minor alterations to land.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement Amendment will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/6/2012

Page 3

The Project Agreement Amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that North East Trees may proceed with the requested project in the Fifth Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisor